

The Propeller



Superintendent Laurie Johnson



IREF Staff Enjoy Family & Friends During Employee Appreciation Week

Staff at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility experienced a sweet ending to their week-long celebration of Correctional Employees' Week (May 4-10).

Staff members were invited to an ice cream social on Friday afternoon, where they were treated to root beer floats, sundaes and banana splits with every topping imaginable to satisfy one's sweet tooth. But the public employees' appreciation week started on a more savory note.

To begin the festivities, staff were served made-to-order breakfast omelets made with fresh eggs and stuffed with veggies, cheese, bacon, onions, and other fresh topping and orange juice to start their day.

The facility spiced up the celebrations at the employee family cook-out on Wednesday afternoon. The weather was both sunny and accommodating, and staff, along with their family members and pets, enjoyed a barbeque style luncheon of grilled burgers, sausages, hot dogs (with all the fixings), potato salad, baked beans, chips, soda, and dessert. There were several games in which to participate, the more popular one being the dunk tank. IREF Assistant Superintendent Dalton Haney, Classification Supervisor Gerald Smith, and Chaplain Keith Blackburn volunteered their services to sit in the dunk tank and rally their fellow employees to line up for a chance to hit the target and see them fall into the cool water below.

Later in the week, staff participated in a build-your-own Submarine Sandwich bar while enjoying the talents of many of their coworkers who braved the stage and sang their favorite hits during karaoke hour.

The night-shift enjoyed the same fun, games, prizes, and sweet treats. They participated in an evening cookout, with meals delivered to staff manning the housing units, and games of bingo and corn hole.

Superintendent Laurie Johnson took the opportunity to express her appreciation for all IREF staff during the staff recall that followed karaoke hour. She congratulated staff on the outstanding jobs they do each and every day, and expressed her gratitude in their hard work and effort to make IREF an outstanding correctional facility.





IREF Residents Participate in PREP Seminar by PIO Clerk Richard Jordan

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It is not rude. It does not look out for its own interest. It does not become easily angry. It does not keep track of other people’s wrongs. Love is not happy with evil. But is full of joy when the truth is spoken. It always hopes. It never gives up. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 NIV

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, facilitators taught lessons of love and relationships to the eleven couples participating in the Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) seminar. The couples learned lessons of communication, trust, and honesty—tools necessary to maintain an enduring relationship. Chaplain Keith Blackburn and Specialist III Treddia Crouch both facilitated this year’s seminar, which took place in IREF’s education building.

Of the many exercises facilitators asked the couples to participate in, some seemed to have a more noticeable impact. One was the interpretive drawings, where couples were instructed to give their own definition of love through art. Another was when the couples were asked to give one to three reasons why they loved one another; this seemed easy enough, but in a room full of strangers it proved challenging. The day was filled with many other exercises and presentations geared towards strengthening relational bonds.

IREF’s Family Education Department (FED) funded the all day workshop, which is designed to teach residents and their spouses, or significant others, to build trust, find solutions, and develop healthy communication skills. The facility’s Religious Services Department teaches a variety of courses, which must be completed, for a resident to attend the PREP seminar. For residents and their significant others wishing to marry at IREF, the

seminar along with other marriage skills education classes facilitated by specially trained Department staff, FED and Religious Services, is required.

When asked what she thought of the training for the PREP seminar, Specialist III Mrs. Crouch answered, “The course of training for the staff was very therapeutic and humbling. It also teaches you to manage your own relationship in a more appropriate manner.”

When asked what his hopes for future PREP events were, Chaplain Keith Blackburn answered, “Our goal is to use the skills presented in our PREP classes to strengthen relationships and equip the residents here at IREF for a successful re-entry, because family and relationships are important.”

Special points of interest:

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Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility Residents Participate in Trash Bash, Great Indy Clean-up



The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has partnered with the Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) to provide crews comprised of IDOC staff and offenders to clear away tons of trash and litter from around the city and state during INDOT's Annual Trash Bash and KIB's Great Indy Clean-up.

On Saturday, April 5, 2013, several supervised work crews from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) set out with staff to different parks and community neighborhoods around the city of Indianapolis to assist in the cleanup efforts. The work crews worked alongside their community neighbors, helping to clean the streets, alleyways, and other public areas.

Their efforts cleared tons of litter, rubber tires, discarded medical supplies, furniture and mattresses, tree branches, and other unsightly trash, making for a more beautiful Indianapolis.

KIB is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to unite people to help beautify and transform public spaces through aesthetics and environmental improvement. Their project, the Great Indy Clean-up, kicked off on the first Saturday in April, and will continue cleanup efforts through October 2014.

The Trash Bash runs from April 5-27. In 2013, more than 20,000 bags of trash were collected by INDOT crews, work crews from the IDOC and 1,600 Adopt-A-Highway volunteers. Also collected were 1,256 cubic yards of loose debris which included some strange items including an electric meter, laptop, horse whip and cash. "The Department of Correction strives to rehabilitate

offenders in many ways and cleaning up Hoosier highways is one program that allows them to give back to the community and turn doing time into doing good," said Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. "Partnering with INDOT in their Annual Trash Bash and helping brighten up our great state is one of our agency's favorite activities."

INDOT encourages all Hoosiers to keep Indiana's highways clean by following some simple tips:

- **Don't litter:** Set a good example for everyone, especially children.
- **Be responsible:** Carry a litter bag in your car instead of tossing trash out the window.
- **Report it:** Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage to your local transportation, public works or conservation office.

Adopt it: To find out how your group can become involved in helping beautify an area near you by participating in Adopt-A-Highway, Sponsor-A-Highway or other highway beautification efforts please contact our Customer Service Department at 1-800-279-5758.

INDOT reminds motorists to follow the posted work zone speed limit, use caution and consider worker safety when traveling through a work zone. For the latest news and information about INDOT, please visit www.in.gov/indot.

Resurrection Day

by PIO Clerk Richard Jordan

April 20, 2014 was Easter Sunday. IREF residents attended in droves for this year's chapel service. This year was in stark contrast to last year's events; there were no children, no Easter egg hunts, and chocolate candies on the grounds for the squirrels to pilfer.

This year the residents were only in attendance for the remembrance of the great sacrifice that occurred only three days before "Resurrection Day". Even though Brothers Darren and Kevin of Unchained Ministries gave brief testimonies, the majority of the service was comprised of a powerful sermon by Resident Charles M^cCauley, and various resident testimonies. The IREF praise team kept the spirit moving within with their renditions of popular spiritual hymns.

While we are all familiar with the story of Easter, it was interesting to learn how various residents and staff answered when asked, "What does Easter mean to you?"

"I truly remember the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us, not just today but everyday"

Resident Reginald Sistrunk

"Easter means a lot to me, it's the celebration of Christ resurrection." - Resident Hurst

"A new beginning- It means hope, because had he not risen any good that I do would be in vain." - Resident Randy Holland

"We are able to live by grace not by what we do. I don't live by the laws of the old Israelites but by Jesus' law, Everyday is Easter." -Resident Davis

"It is the completion of the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for my salvation." -Resident Michael Byfield

"As for me Easter symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It means a time of hope and purpose. There is hope because of what Christ did on the cross, giving me a chance for eternal life with him in heaven. A purpose to share, there is no greater love that anyone can give than he did when he laid down his life and died. When he rose with all power, that same power he gave to me. The power to love others, to forgive, etc., Easter is the time of

continuous celebration, mental freedom and spiritual renewal. This is a time to spring forward in life. I'd like to also give you this prayer, 'Let that evil stone be rolled away from your life and family, in Jesus' name. That same resurrection that raised Jesus Christ from the dead will quicken every dead area of your life and breathe life anew into you and your loved ones. In the name of Jesus Christ, AMEN.'" -LT. Foster

Striking Chords by PIO Clerk Richard Jordan

Residents of IREF are taking on new challenges. Aside from preparing themselves for successful re-entry, they are also learning new and exciting ways to occupy their time. The facility now offers music lessons for all those interested. Perhaps you are a music lover, but never had the time or finances to pursue your passion; this is a great opportunity to utilize your time in a constructive manner. The level of talent within correctional facilities is often overlooked; the chance to nurture gifts and fuel aspirations, often missed. The Music Lessons program, facilitated by Rec. director Tyus, offers residents a chance to hone their skills, and give fellow residents the gift of music. The program offers piano and guitar lessons. Truman "Vinni" Vinson, who teaches guitar, and John "Poncho" Garbison, who teaches piano, are just two of the residents that are striking chords. When asked how music helps residents the teachers answered,

"Playing the guitar is a good way to channel what you're feeling... music is emotion, emotion is music."—Vinni

"It definitely teaches them patience and keeps their minds busy... it opens up a whole new world."—Poncho

"You have real musicians, artist and personal trainers. Were you to take these courses outside of IREF it would cost a lot. It's a great opportunity."—Mr. Tyus

After further research into music lessons, it was discovered that outside the facility, piano lessons are a minimum of \$30-38 per hour and piano and guitar lessons combined are a minimum of \$50 per hour. It is certain that anyone not taking advantage of the opportunity is a terrible oversight.

IUPUI Students Host Clothing Drive for IREF Dress For Re-Entry

by

PIO Clerk Dale Lycan



On February 3, 2014 a group of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) students toured IREF. These tours are common place for Law Students and Students of Social Work.

The tour started like the rest. I gave an introduction and some history about the facility, asking a few general questions concerning the tour group. During the course of the introduction the group was told that the residents would be wearing street clothes, as opposed to the normal prison garb of either jumpsuits or khaki pants and shirts. The students were informed that residents' families and loved ones who are able to do so provide them with many of the street clothes they wear while at IREF.

Unfortunately, a large number of residents have family or loved ones who cannot provide them with clothing items, and must depend on IREF's Dress for Re-Entry (DFR) program for clothes. Via a referral from IREF counselors, the DFR will provide eligible resident with two sets of civilian clothing. The DFR also provides durable wear for residents who work on outside work crews, and professional garments to wear to job interviews.

Over the past year, DFR has provided residents with hundreds of suits of clothes, and the inventory of items is low. Impressed with the DFR program, the class decided they would host a clothing drive on the IUPUI campus to help stock the DFR coffers.

Weeks later, IUPUI Social Work student Michelle Grant contacted DFR coordinator Jacinda Estle-Cronau and made arrangements to bring in the hundreds of pairs of men's pants, jeans, shirts, socks, and hats on April 7, 2014. They even

brought in a large selection of books donated by IUPUI students during the clothing drive.

The items were well received and met the needs of a number of residents who were put on a waitlist to receive civilian street clothes.

The residents here at IREF here would like to **THANK** everyone who helped set up the clothing drive and for those selflessly donating the clothing and the books to this facility.



Social Justice Forum

by Jacinda Estle-Cronau, Community & Volunteer Services

"Communities need to be concerned about Re-Entry, because most people who are incarcerated will someday be living with us again in our communities," said IREF Community Services Liaison Jacinda Estle Cronau. Ms. Cronau and former IREF Residents Lydon Clanton and James Middleton were invited to be members of a community forum held at St. Monica Catholic Church in Indianapolis. The forum featured different groups in the community with specific interests in social justice in the Indianapolis community.

Clanton, who now works for Public Advocates in Community Re-Entry (PACE) in Indianapolis, explained that his interest in helping his community began while he was incarcerated. Clanton worked to bring groups into the facility, to help with other Resident's awareness about their impact on their own communities. Middleton, who works for a manufacturing company in Elkhart, talked about the importance of community's partnering with facilities, such as IREF, so that re-entry doesn't have to be a failure for many, that housing and jobs will be available in Resident's local communities.

Mallard Madness



Mallard Madness has returned to IREF. It is a welcome recidivism.

The two nesting Mallard Ducks have again returned to IREF. They make their early morning appearance when there is little traffic around the goldfish pond.

So far they have only landed when no one was around quickly leaving when disturbed. I believe once they are again familiar with the residents and figure out they will be well feed and protected we can expect another brood of young ducklings that both the residents and the staff will be oohing and awing over until they are fully capable of living on their own.

Until then, those little ducklings will be the main attraction at the facility for the duration of their stay, until they get released.

Too Late for “Prank’n Out” by PIO Clerk Richard Jordan

After long terms of incarceration, extended periods of conduct free behavior, and most importantly long terms of health and sobriety, why are so many men risking it all to indulge in the use of synthetic marijuana? Synthetic marijuana better known as K-2, Spice, Spigitty, or Tochi has found its way into our midst and threatens to jeopardize our ultimate goal of successful re-entry. As incarcerated men we’ve learned to refrain from nefarious behavior. What comes into question is whether our restraint was due to our need for change, or our fear of repercussions for wrongful acts. Many of us are familiar with the strong talks of reform and have used the language ourselves to cement our status as “Men” tired of this recidivous behavior.

In the past or early years of our commitment the use of illicit drugs was a surefire way to lose time with the failing of a drug screen or possibly be charged and prosecuted by the State for possession. It was quickly determined that the end didn’t justify the means, so started the talks of sobriety and the “choice” of permanent reform. Of course these talks were easy to validate in the higher level facilities simply because the presence of illicit materials were limited. Once we arrive at the lower level facilities, where access to illegal substances is readily available, it appears that our priorities change with our security level. Has our plight changed? Is our goal still successful re-entry? Why then are so many men “Prank’n Out”? For those of the readers who are unfamiliar with this

term, “Prank’n Out” is the loss of ones mental/ physical faculties due to the use of Synthetic marijuana.

The question now becomes, “How can an individual expect to live in sobriety as a free man when, within the confines of a level one facility, there is no restraint exhibited?” The rumor that a test for the presence of synthetic marijuana doesn’t exist is simply that, a rumor. The claim that K-2 is harmless is one of the greatest falsehoods ever told. The chemicals used in K-2 are formulated to bond with cell receptors in your system much like marijuana. Unfortunately, these chemicals are so strong that the end result is a reaction that is 100 times stronger than a reaction caused by marijuana. This in turn causes the user to experience seizures, tremors, hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, anxiety, severe agitation, and harmful thoughts and/or actions.

In the end, our time is one of self reflection. We must ask ourselves, why are we making the decisions that we make? Are they for our own personal growth, or are we simply afraid of the repercussions of our actions?

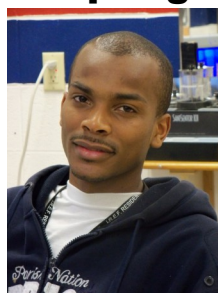
What Does Spring at IREF Mean to You?



A. Boyd



Bradley



Price



Ohm



Keith Matthew



Wilson

The changing of the seasons and knowing that summer is on its way.

—Officer A. Boyd

It lets me know that I am closer to going home and reuniting with my family.

—L. Bradley

Spring at IREF means...that I have two more seasons to go before I am home.

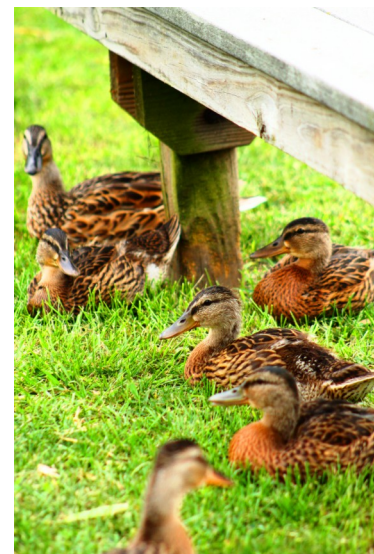
—Mark Price

Watching the new born ducklings grow into adult ducks.

—Dave Ohm

It means there will be lots of flowers, and it means it will be getting warmer.

—Keith Matthew



Spring time at IREF means looking forward to the residents being active, playing volleyball, and basketball outdoors. I look forward to the talent shows the residents have, and the bands that visit our facility. I love to see the dads with their children; that is a wonderful sight to see.

—Officer Wilson

Springtime here at IREF is a time to reflect on the coming year, and what I hope to gain from the hard work I have put in to change the way I think, and about how I handle the daily roads of my life. It is about how I chose to go down that road, in order to keep from becoming stuck in the traffic jams of those who are going nowhere quick. Spring is a time to tune-up my mental engine, and produce enough horsepower to follow through with my choices and avoid the detours and the stagnant traffic jams that are sure to be there waiting for me.

—Anonymous

Volunteer Your Services

Residents of IREF, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer your services, sometimes for pay! Do you have a job assignment that leaves you with plenty of free time? Perhaps you have a specialized skill; maybe you're a barber, a landscaper, a cook or just a person that loves to stay busy? There are always volunteer positions available in the kitchen, barber shop or on the grounds crew.

Inside IREF

This new column is intended to inform when a project was started, completed, or is on going, and any changes that are pertinent to the staff and residents of the facility, along with a look at what occurred throughout the month.

ACA—The American Correctional Association's audit was held on April 1-2. IREF passed with flying colors.

AVP III—Alternative to Violence Project III Facilitator Training workshop for those residents who have completed the basic and advanced workshops and want to facilitate the AVP workshop program was conducted on May 3&4.

Mallards Return—The Ducks are back on site for round two of Mother Nature's family planning.

Holy Cross—April 3rd IREF resident clean up crews with Mr. R. Boys was postponed until the 10th due to the wet weather.

KIB—Keep Indy Beautiful April 5th with Multi IREF resident crews to various City neighborhoods.

Clothing Donation—Dress for Re-entry received a clothing donation from a clothing drive held by the students and teaching staff of IUPUI on April 7th.

IUPUI—Tour (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis) April 9th.

Birthday Party—April 12th multi-purpose room in the Education Building.

Habitat for Humanity—April 16th Mr. Boys took a small crew of resident volunteers to assist with the build.

PREP Seminar—Saturday the 26th

Ivy Tech—Tour with Question & Answer session April 29th.

Birthday Parties from the Heart

They show up at the facility to put a little joy into our hearts. That is exactly where these parties come from, the heart. The volunteers hold these parties for us and want to share with us at least some semblance of normality; a normality that we forego when we decide to commit whatever crime against society we have violated. These volunteers bring cake, ice cream, candy, sodas, fruit, sandwiches, chips, or whatever they decide to give. For some of the residents this is the first party they have ever had. It is a blessing to have somebody from the outside who cares enough to let them have a taste of freedom.

Not all of the birthday parties are the same. Some bring different foods, and some bring snacks, but the one thing they all bring is a piece of their heart. I know I count my lucky stars when these people show up every March. I am fortunate enough to have their fellowship, and I understand that these men and women selflessly donate their time and money just to be here with me.

For those of you who are disappointed with the birthday parties because you did not or do not get what you think you deserve...do not come. It only means more for the rest of us who do not care what is being served. There are at least three things that you can count on being there, caring people from the free world, a time you will remember, and birthday cake. You cannot go wrong with cake no matter what flavor.

Clothing Donations Needed at IREF by DFR Clerk Rick Annes

IREF, on the grounds of the old Indiana Women's Prison, is in dire need of clothing donations.

Part of the successful transition back to society is re-training the mind and body to think and feel like a civilian again, and an important aspect of that is to get Offenders out of the khaki jumpsuit and back into civilian clothing. When men are given the chance to shed their prison garments and put on real clothing for the first time in what may have been decades, the transformation is often dramatic. Being able to be proud of one's appearance is to be able to be proud of one's self—an important first step in the rehabilitation of the individual—and **Dress For Re-entry** (DFR) helps to facilitate the process, by providing clothing for the less fortunate IREF residents who may lack the resources to provide for themselves.

Help IREF to help men make that successful transition through your donation; ask your church, your organization, look in your closet, look in your heart. Interested parties should contact Community Services Coordinator **Mrs. Estle-Cronau**.

Requested Items:

Work and casual shirts, sizes 1XL to 5XL;

Work and casual pants, sizes 34-to-44 waists with 32-34-36 inch inseams;

Blue Jeans (for outside work crews) the same sizes as above #2;

Work and casual shoes sizes 9 to 12;

Belts sizes 36-56;

Jackets and Coats;

Any other clothing items

Building Trades Breaking Ground, Literally by PIO Clerk Richard Jordan



The students of IREF building trades class have embarked on an assignment meant to create a safer walkway, apply learned skills, and provide practical work experience. Due to the rupture of a water main and subsequent flood damage, access to a portion of the walkway has long been restricted. Crumbling concrete and potholes have made the walkway unsafe for jogging, and precarious for walking. Mr. Carnes, Building Trades instructor, seized this opportunity to enhance the class curriculum by giving his students an assignment with practical application. This is an assignment that also gives students a chance to see their work weather storms, and endure wear and tear. When asked how long such a project would take, Mr. Carnes answered,

“Ideally, this would be a fairly quick job, but considering it’s a learning project, and I want my students to understand the full scope of the assignment, it will take a bit longer.” The students will be graded on their participation and their ability to demonstrate a working knowledge of the project. Building Trades affords students the opportunity to gain applicable work experience in the area of residential construction, and the ability to read and create blueprints. The residents of IREF are grateful, and look forward to the completion of the walkway.

INVET Dispatch

Veterans Health Administration Peer Support Provider

by PIO Clerk Dale Lycan

INVET Specialist David Hannah

by PIO Clerk Dale Lycan



Ray Lay (Left) is a Recovery Specialist with the VHA, as a peer support provider.

Navy Veteran and INVET Specialist III Mr. Hannah



Ray Lay is a Marine Corp veteran who served in the United States military during the Vietnam Conflict in South East Asia. He is also an ex-offender. Ray is certified by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) as a peer support provider. A peer support provider is someone who is actively engaged in his or her own mental health or co-occurring disorder recovery, and has been trained to help others with the same disorders identify and achieve specific life and recovery goals.

As a VHA representative, Ray provides peer support to other veterans housed at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). The VHA's peer support program teaches residents the skills needed to navigate the recovery process, and educates them about the medical, substance abuse programs, and other veteran supported programs available in the community.

Ray meets one on one with IREF veterans each Wednesday to share stories of his recovery, and to motivate them to seek out and interact with agencies that provide services that target former veteran offenders. Ray teaches goal setting and problem solving.

Ray understands and suffers from the same mental illness I have been diagnosed with," INVET resident Felix Griffin said. "He is a good mentor. He has helped me understand my diagnosis, and this makes it easy for me to relate to him as my mentor and peer support provider."

The INVET units not only houses residents who are military veterans, but have Specialist IIIs who are veterans. David Hannah served four years as Yeoman on board the USS Skip Jack submarine, and another ten years as a Master at Arms while in the naval reserve.

Mr. Hannah graduated from Southern Illinois University with a Justice Administration degree. He joined the Department of Correction in 1993 as an officer at one of the juvenile facilities. He later transferred to the Reception Diagnostic Center

In 2006, Mr. Hannah transferred to the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility where he began working as a Re-Entry Specialist III, and continued to work in that capacity when the population transferred to the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility.

His responsibilities include assessing the needs of each resident on his caseload, and determining whether they require further education, substance abuse programs, or other classes. Mr. Hannah's overall responsibility is to ensure that the residents each have release plans in place before they return to society.

Mr. Hannah's long-term goal in regards to IREF is to continue to help prepare IREF veterans for successful re-entry into society.



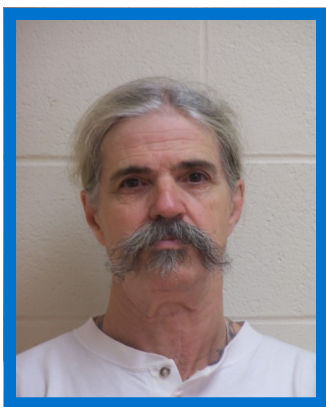
In Remembrance —Semper Fidelis



William 'Joe' Cain June 7, 1950 -
April 6, 2014

LOGOOTEETEE — William J. “Joe” Cain, 63, died at 2:35 a.m. Sunday at his home. Born June 7, 1950, in Chicago, Ill., he was the son of Edwin Eugene and Ruth (Bradfield) Cain. He was a retired welder and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Joe was of the Catholic faith and was a 1969 graduate of Rensselaer High School. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, watching basketball and football and following Jeff Gordon in NASCAR.

POST 311 THE COMMANDER’S CORNER



Having read this far in the newsletter, you already know that we lost a brother recently. On the 6th of April, our past vice-commander, and former Post Service Officer, Joe Cain, passed away after having a stroke and *then* being diagnosed with cancer to boot—Joe never did anything half-way.

On April 10, a memorial ceremony was held at the flag-stand in front of the INVET unit here at IREF. In attendance were Joe’s comrades, fellow legionnaires, and even many IREF staff members—all to recognize the passing of a really good guy, a brother marine, and a friend to all. The Supreme Commander must have been in need of a good XO. Semper Fi.

At Your Service, Rick Annes, Commander Post 311, INVET Unit

American Legion Post 311, INVET Unit historian and membership committee chairman, John Gorczyca, brought to life the Post's history, using only past meeting minutes and interviewing founding Legion members. Gorczyca put together a record of who, what, when, and where of the membership history detailing events that took place within the Post and its inception. He spent countless hours of his time to record what he discovered.

As chairman of the membership committee, he signs up eligible new arrivals to the INVET Unit for Post membership. Gorczyca takes his duties seriously and thus Post membership has risen and remained at steady numbers since his appointment.

This month's Member of the Month is John Gorczyca. He has been an added asset to the membership of American Legion Post 311, INVET Unit.

Member of the Month

by PIO Clerk Dale Lycan



John Gorczyca

Post Historian and Chairman of the Membership Committee

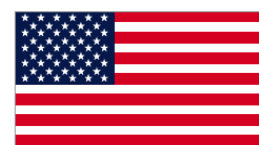
DID YOU KNOW?

At the turn of the 21st century the total membership of the Legion was about 3,000,000 enrolled in 15,000 local posts, or groups.

The first official national flag approved by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777 was the Stars and Stripes. The blue canton was to contain 13 stars, but the layout of the stars was left undefined, and several patterns are known. The designer of the flag, Congressman Francis Hopkinson, may have had a ring of stars in mind to symbolize a new constellation. Today that pattern is popularly known as the Betsy Ross flag. Rows of stars were common, but other variations also existed. The new Stars and Stripes formed part of the military colors carried on Sept. 11, 1777, at the Battle of the Brandywine.



13 stars, 1777-95



50 stars, 1960

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401 N. RANDOLPH STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46201 • (317) 639-2671

The Propeller



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Your input is needed, wanted, and necessary. Please send feedback on ways in which you think this publication can be improved. Anyone interested in contributing articles, announcements, editorials, poetry, or jokes are encouraged to do so. Please email suggestions to g cotton@idoc.in.gov.

The Propeller looks forward to hearing from you!!!

The **Community Service Department** is in need of any and all books, but specifically:

Non-fiction

Sciences – physical earth life sciences, social sciences, social behavioral sciences

Self-help

Fiction

Literally fiction – classics, contemporary

We are always looking for new volunteers to facilitate programming and mentor residents one-on-one. If you are interested in learning more about ways you can volunteer, please contact

Mrs. Estle-Cronau at JEstle-Cronau@IDOC.in.gov,

or 317-639-2671, ext. 214.